February 1990

GAYSPEAK

NEWSLETTER OF THE PIKES PEAK GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

P.O. BOX 574 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80901 PHONE (719) 471-4429

From the President's Desk

Saturday March 3rd, is the date set aside by the United Court of the Rising Sun Empire for Court Night at the Iron Springs Chateau. Tickets for the evening cost $18.50 court members,$19.50 non-members, for dinner and show. For just the show it is $9.50 for members and $10.50 non-members. Cocktails start at 6:00pm,dinner at 7:00pm and the show starts at 8:30pm.

The evening is open to the entire community and is an event that I personally would recommand. It is an evening of good food and entertainment geared to our community. All in all I feel it is an evening well worth working into your schedule. To purchase tickets, please contact David Eidson. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and the dead line date will be February 25th.

Sincerely,
Ed Sells
President
P.P.G.C.C.

The Vice President Speaks

The results from the membership drive contest are in, Pikes Peak MCC won the contest with 22 new Community Center members. I would like to take this time to thank Constance Seay, for all her help in recruiting new members for the Community Center. The 'show' of unity and support for this membership drive was fantastic.

The Community Center is trying many new ideas this year, for entertainment and fund raisers. We need your help in making these events successful. Your comments are helpful, please let me know if you have any ideas you would like to share with the Community Center.

David Eidson
Vice-President
P.P.G.C.C.

PPGCC MEMBERS

We make every attempt to address your newsletters correctly. However sometimes names get misspelled or the wrong zip-code is used. Please check your mailing label and make sure it is correct. If there is an error on the label, please contact David Eidson at 473-7794 and leave a message with the correction.

THE UNITED COURT of the RISING SUN EMPIRE

Our new Princess Royal 14, Wanna Lee has been keeping herself very busy in her new role.

Emperor 14, David Eidson, Prince Royal 14, Kevin Conboy and Emperor 12, Jeff Dilworth went to Houstons Coronation on the 3rd of February. Empress 14, Lyda Rose held down the fort while the Emperor was away. During this time a new Grand Duchess was named to the line (Miss Pheonix). Antia said her goodbyes and moved back to Salt Lake due to a family illness.

On March 3rd, Court night at the Iron Springs Chateau, this night has provded to be a lot of fun for to entire community. Please mark the date on your calender. Contact David or Lyda for tickets. The tickets need to be purchased in advance.

February 24th - "Show our Unity in Denver" at BJ's Carousel (Denver) 9:30pm.

March 17th, "A show in Green" 10:30 and 12:00 mid. at the Hide and Seek.

March 25th, "Hollywood's Great Classics" Black and White Ball 1990. Cocktails at 5:00pm and Ball at 6:00pm.

PROGRESSIVE
HAIR
DESIGNERS

Complete Manicuring, Pedicuring & Nail Design.

1403 S. 8TH ST.
COLO. SPGS., CO. 80906
634-6555

Yvonne 473-1096

Village Hair Studio

2812 W. Colorado Ave, Suite 201

COLORADO GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

February 24th - just for fun, at the Hour Glass Lounge.
March 4th - Showing support for Pikes Peak MCC, 5pm at 730 N. Tejon.
March 5th - CGRA general membership meeting at the Exit Lounge, 7pm everyone is welcome.
March 17th - "Show your Green" at True Colors, show and party! 9pm to 12md.
If you have any question on CGRA memberships or meetings call 471-4GAY (PPGCC Helpline).

UNITE Has a full schedule for February and March. Our events offer enough variety that we hope to offer something for everyone. Some up coming events are; February 14 Pizza party at Fargo's at 6:00, Beth Bowman speaks to the group on Hospice care at our regularly scheduled meeting on February 21st at 7:00pm, on March 7th we are having a horror movie night at 7:00pm. On the 17th we're off to St. Pats Parade; March 21st, we will be having a planning meeting for our 2nd quarter activities. If you are intrusted in any events or have any questions concerning the group, please contact the Helpline at 471-4429.

PIKES PEAK MCC
730 N. TEJON

Our Annual Meeting of the Congregation had to be rescheduled from Friday, January 19th, to Sunday, January 21st, because of the snowstorm. Twenty-three members (50%), and several friends were in attendance. Elected to the Board of Directors were Julie Krueger (reelected), Don Sprague (appointed by the Board midyear but now elected), and Russell Lineburg (newly elected). Ed Sells continues to serve on the Board. Elected as Lay Delegate was Jonelle Neighbor. A newly elected position (Alternate Lay Delegate) will be in force upon enactment of a change in our Standard Operating procedures. Julie Krueger will fill this position.
The LENTEN SEASON of the Church Year begins on Ash Wednesday, February 28th. Details of the service will be announced in the Sunday bulletin. The service will be planned by the concil of Faith and Worship.

STUDENT LIFE,

in cooperation with the El Paso County Health Department, presents an HIV/AIDS Symposium as part of its Wellness Program, in the PPCC theater on February 28th, from 1-4pm. This program is free and open to the public.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR,

I personally am offended (to put it mildly) by Rep. Dannemeyer's and Sullivan's remarks (News From The Front) for several reasons - one of which I will give here. The first is their insensitivity to the pain and suffering of Lesbian and Gay youth. The media abounds with reports of the difficulties of being a teenager. Gay youth face the double jeopardy of suriving adolescence and developing a positive identity in what is frequently a hostile and condemning environment. According to the DHHS report, gay youth are the only group of adolescents that face total rejection from their family unit with the prospect of no ongoing support. Also, the report points out that a nationwide survey showed that 45% of gay males and nearly 20% of lesbians have experienced verbal or physical assault in secondary schools. To be an adolescent is painful - to be abolescent and gay or lesbian is hell. Perhaps some of you remember. Let all of us heed the reports and be a positive role model for gay and lesbian youth.

Pat Killen

AIDS RESEARCH SOLICITS PARTICIPANTS

Bethesda,MD.- The National Institutes of Health are asking for people testing positive for HIV and persons with AIDS to participate in a variety of research studies they are conducting.

Participants are needed for a number of studies currently in progress. Of special urgency are recuits for studies involving AZT and interferon which have both been in the news recently because of remarkable new developments. After the initial screening visit, all travel costs and medical care associated with these studies are free.

A complete list of NIH studies is posted on the bulletin board at the Herland Resource Center,2312 N.W. 39th,OKC. For more information you may contact: Dianne Lee at 301-496-7196 or Debbie Ogata-Arakaki or Barbara Baird at 301-496-9565, or write Henry Masur,M.D., Chief, Critical Care Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda,M.D. 20892.

HRCF PLANS NATIONAL FAMILY REGISTRY

Washington,D.C. - In the wake of the failure of San Francisco's domestic partnership law on election day, the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) has decided to develop a nationwide family registry program to build grass roots support for the concepts of lesbian and gay families.

HRCF will maintain the record of gay and lesbian families who wish to be so identified.

"It is clear that the general public has not yet moved to the point where it is willing to affirm lesbian and gay families,"HRCF executive director Tim McFeely commented. "What we can do with the Registry is educate the public so that they will understand that many lesbians and gays have families which are as important to us as the families of heterosexuals are to them."

Plans for the organization of the Registry are currently underway. Lesbians and gays who would like to participate should contact Kathleen Stoll at HRCF in Washington,(202) 628-4160. HRCF hopes to launch the National Family Registry on February 14, 1990.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR WOMEN

If any of you have given thought to going back to school and can't seem to get your money tree to grow anything but root rot, here is something you might be interested in.

Clairol offers financial aid to women over 30 who are returning to school in order to achieve career goals. You can go part time or full time for either academic degree work (with the exception of PhD or EdD) or vocational training. The money alotted may be used for education-related expenses such as child care, transportation, books or tuition and fees. Clairol awards a total of $50,000 in scholarships to approximately 100 women each year. Individual awards average between $750-$1,000.

For more information or

for a scholarship application, write to: The Clairol Scholarship Program, c/o Business & Professional Women's Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Ave.,N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036, (202) 293-1200. Applications for fall term must be postmarked by April 15; for spring term, September 15.

MASS. ATTORNEY GENERAL RULES REFERENDUM UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Supports of the Massachusetts Gay Rights Law, which was signed on November 15 by Governor Dukakis, claimed a major victory when Attorney General James Shannon ruled that the attempt to place the statute on the ballot for repeal in 1990 was unconstitutional. Opponents of the law had hoped to rescind it by placing it before voters in the coming election.

The Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill was fist filed in 1973 and was finally signed into law several weeks ago after a contentious seventeen-year battle. Popular support has grown dramatically in the last several years, during which time the struggle to enact the law has become one of the state's major news stories. The most recent poll, conducted by KRC Research (Cambridge) for the Boston Globe revealed 70% of Massachusetts voters support the law, while only 21 favor repeal.

2ND ANNUAL LAMBDA LITERARY AWARDS SLATED FOR JUNE; CATEGORIES ANNOUNCED

Washington,DC;January 15,1990- Lambda Book Report today announced plans for the Second Annual Lambda Literary Awards, including an expanded range of categories for this year's presentation. The Awards, recognizing excellence in gay and lesbian writing and publishing, will be presented at a gala banquet ceremony held in Las Vegas,NV,on Friday, June 1, 1990, during the American Booksellers Association Convention. Awards for "Gay and Lesbian Humor," "Young Adult and Children's Books," and "Anthologies and Collections" will be presented for the first time.

The public is invited to participate in the Second Annual Lambda Literary Awards by nominating their favorite gay and lesbian books of 1989. Nominations are accepted in 17 categories: Lesbian Fiction, Gay Men's Fiction, Lesbian Non-fiction, Gay Men's Non-fiction, Lesbian Anthologies/Collections, Gay Men's Anthologies/Collections,Lesbian Mystery Gay Men's Mystery, Lesbian Science Fiction/Fantasy, Gay men's Science Fiction/Fantasy, Gay and Lesbian Poetry, Lesbian "Debut," (for first published work, fiction or non-fiction, by a writer or editor), Gay Men's "Debut," Gay and Lesbian Publisher's Book Award, and AIDS (a special category).

Nominating ballots are being distributed through gay and lesbian newspapers and bookstores and Lambda Book Report itself. The deadline for nominations is February 16, 1990. The five finalists in each category will be announced nationally on March 1, 1990.

A panel of 85 judges from across the country, representing a broad cross-section of the entire lesbian and gay literary community, will select a single book in each category from among the finalists to be the Lambda Literary Award recipient for that category.

For further information about the awards program or the banquet, please contact Lambda Book Report, 1625 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington,DC, 20009-1013 or Phone (202) 462-7924.

TELLING GAY STORIES: THE TRUTH CAN SET US FREE

BY CHUCK FORESTER

Ann Landers doesn't usually tell her readers off. That's why it came as a surprise to see the two recent columns where she came down firmly against readers who attacked the idea of gay marriages. One subtle writer from Wisconsin had put the case for bigotry rather bluntly:"Those faggots should go back in the closet where they belong." Ann's response was right on target, stating her shock at the "viciousness and intolerance" of those opposed to legitimizing gay relationships.

Mixed in with the anti-gay sentiments Ann printed were letters of support, many from heterosexuals who knew a gay man or lesbian. One father wrote that he had two sons, one straight and one gay. Both desereved the same rights, he said. His response should not have surprised me, because it only confirmed a point that pollsters discovered some time ago: Support for gay rights is greatest among

those who know a gay person.

Unfortunately, most heterosexuals know only what they learn from the mass media. Twenty years ago, Stonewall was but a blip on the media's radar screen. Ten years later lesbian/gay stories were beginning to appear. Today the power of gay politics and the AIDS epidemic have put us on the front page of every major daily in Americans, gays and lesbians remain an unknown quantity; we're an abstract entity, not people with hopes, dreams and lives.

Until we tell the public who we are they have little to go on. For example, their images of gay men are often limited to the Religious Right's slanderous view of us as sexual perverts, the popular media's vision of a misunderstood boy next door dying of AIDS, and the traditional stereotypes of the mincing hairdresser and the lesbian mechanic. With the exception of a few accurate depictions of gay diversity seen on little watched P.B.S. documentaries, the majority of heterosexuals have little else.

One reason why Barney Frnk's recent problems generated such interest in the mainstream press is because he is a living, breathing homosexual who is willing to talk about his personal life. Of course, some of the media used his story to bash gays,but many publications including Newsweek - used Barney to teach readers a great deal about the pressures of being gay in a homophobic society. Barney has shared a very real-life story with Americans. He has been honest about it, and that's news because people want to know about us.

While few of us will have the impact of a Barney Frank, all of us can make a difference. Too often we are shy about sharing our personal stories with friends, family and coworkers. They, in turn, are reticent, fearful of offending by asking questions. In some cases family and friends don't know enough about gay people to begin framing the questions they might have. Still, they want to know who we are.

I know from experience the kind of questions they have. When did you discover you were gay? Have you ever faced discrimination? How do you meet other gay people? How did your parents react? Do you enjoy being gay?

All of us should start answering those questions for the heterosexuals we know. The more we talk about being gay, the more our neighbors, friends and families will understand the need to combat homophobia and bigotry. Our answers will give them information, the kind of information that can replace the stereotypical views of gays and lesbians with a more honest view of who we are. Just as important, our answers can forget new allies in the fight for equality.

Some of you will say, "I don't have anything new to add. My stories aren't interesting." Don't believe it. Even if you convey the fact that your life is more like your straight friend's life than different from it, that's important information. It needs to br told. And it is best told to people you know.

From my personal experience working as an up-front gay man in generally non-gay environments, I know that unless I begin the discussion, the information never gets exchanged. It is time we start telling non-gay Americans about who we are. In the process we enrich our lives and theirs.

Our stories are often very interesting. First of all, each of us lived part of our life as two people: as the private, fearful gay man or lesbian and as the apparently straight colleague or friend or child. Second of al, we have been forced to think long and honestly about who we are. As a result, we have some experience in differentiating between what we'd like to believe about ourselves and the truth.

Whether we like it or not, gay men and lesbians are hot news today. After years of effort and struggle, the issues of importance to the lesbian and gay community are now on the national agenda. Decisions that affect our future are going to be made in the next several years. If we want yhose decisions to be positive, we have to tell the world more about ourselves. We have to provide the evidence that gays and lesbians are everywhere.

Some may resist, but most people who know you want to hear your story. We can make the world we share with others a little less tense and a lot more honest by telling the stories of our lives. It is important part of

building the better place that all of us want to leave for the next generation of lesbians and gay men.

Chuck Forester is the founder and president of Quarles Associates, a management and public policy consulting firm in San Francisco. He serves as co-Chair of the Board of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

TWO MORE SENATORS COSPONSOR HATE CRIMES ACT

Washington,D.C. December 7,1989- Senators Jim Sasser (D-TN) and Sam Nunn (D-GA) this week signed on as cosponsors of the Federal Hate Crites Statistics Act, bringing the total number of Senate supporters to 56.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), is optimistic the bill can pass during the 101st Congress. Pending attempts by Senator Jesse Helms to delete gays from the bill can be defeated.

The House of Representatives passed the bill last June 27 by a vote of 368 to 47. Last year, the bill was passed by the House but killed in the Senate during a last-minute move by Helms.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act directs the U.S.Department of Justice to compile and publish data on crimes that manifest prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity. Gay and Lesbian activists see the bill as an important first step by the federal government in stemming the alarming increase of "gay bashing." NGLTF is now pressuring Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell to set a firm date to move the bill as early as possible in 1990. Advocates for the legislation have until the end of the 101st Congress, scheduled to adjourn in the fourth quarter of 1990, to pass the bill under the current list of cosponsors.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Let hear it for our gay men and women in the military. A study commissined by the military in the wake of the 1986 Walker Spy Scandal, has explicitly concluded that a person's sexual orientation is irrelevent to his or her suitability for service in the Armed Forces. The 36 page report Non-Conforming Sexual Orientation and Military Suitability, written in December 1988, also finds that the Defense Department Policy in which discrimination against gays and lesbians employs precisely the same arguments used against blacks and women before they were integrated into the armed services. The military should re-examine its policies with regards to homosexuals, and conduct studies in which openly gay service members would be introduced into a service unit. The defense department did not believe the results of the study, and suppressed the study and requested that a second study be done. The second study ,Preservice Adjustment of Homosexual and Heterosexual Military Accessions: Implications for Security Clearance Suitability,completed January 1989, reached an even more powerful conclusion: That gay men and lesbians are as well qualified if not better qualified than their heterosexual counterparts for positions of trust. The Defense Department has ordered a third study. Both of these studies were suppressed and it was only with the efforts of Democratic Rep. Gerry of Mass. and Democratic Rep. Pat Schroeder of Co. that the reports were ever released to the public. These reports play a significant role in ending the Militarys policy of excluding homosexuals aid in court cases in which gays seek reinstatement after being discharge. Equally important, it lets our gay service men and women who are gay know in no uncertain terms that they are just as good as heterosexual troops. And I say to them "walk tall" and my hat is off to you. Information in this editorial inforum the Defense Personnal Security Research and Education Centers reports #Pers-7R 89-002 and #Pers-TR 89-004 and "Military seeks third study of Policies on Gays" The Boston Globe, November 2,1989. Pat Killen

We appreciate our advertisers. Please Support Them!

Of course Gayspeak is looking for advertisers . . .

Business Card	$10.00
1/8 Page	$17.50
1/4 Page	$25.00
1/2 Page	$35.00
Full Page	$45.00

These rates are for camera ready copy.

Classified ads are free for the first 15 words, and 10 cents for each additional word.

All advertising must be pre-paid before publication.

Pikes Peak Gay Community Center
Membership Application

All membership information is kept strictly confidential.
Individual Dues Are $6.00 Annually

I would like to make a one time donation of $_____

Name_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Phone (Optional)_____

_____ Yes, please deliver GaySpeak to the address above.

Signature_____

Please Mail to: P.O. Box 574 • Colorado Springs, CO 80901

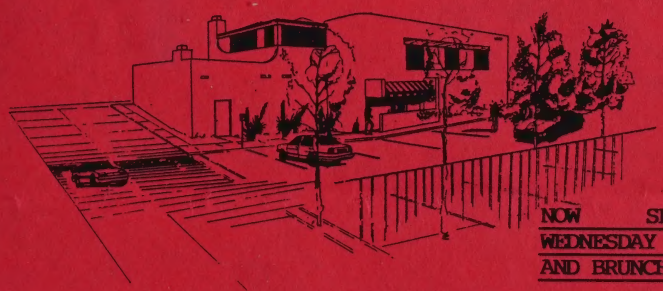
DIGNITY

Call us for more information, Barb and Cher 593-9606.

HELPLINE

Curret Helpline hours are 6-9 PM Mondays through Friday and 3-5 PM on Saturdays.

The Helpline is a great way to help out your community and at the same time make some new friends. If interested in volunteering, call the Helpline for more details, 471-4429 (471-4GAY)



NOW SERVING DINNER
WEDNESDAY THRU SATURDAY
AND BRUNCH ON SUNDAYS

Enjoy Dinner in the Loft Cafe
Call 634-9276 for Information and Reservations

2028 Sheldon Avenue
(Near Highway 24 at 21st Street)

Pikes Peak Gay Community Center

For more information call · 471-4Gay